

Is There a Brexit Consensus To Be Found?

John Curtice

NatCen Social Research/University of Strathclyde

Senior Fellow, UK in a Changing Europe

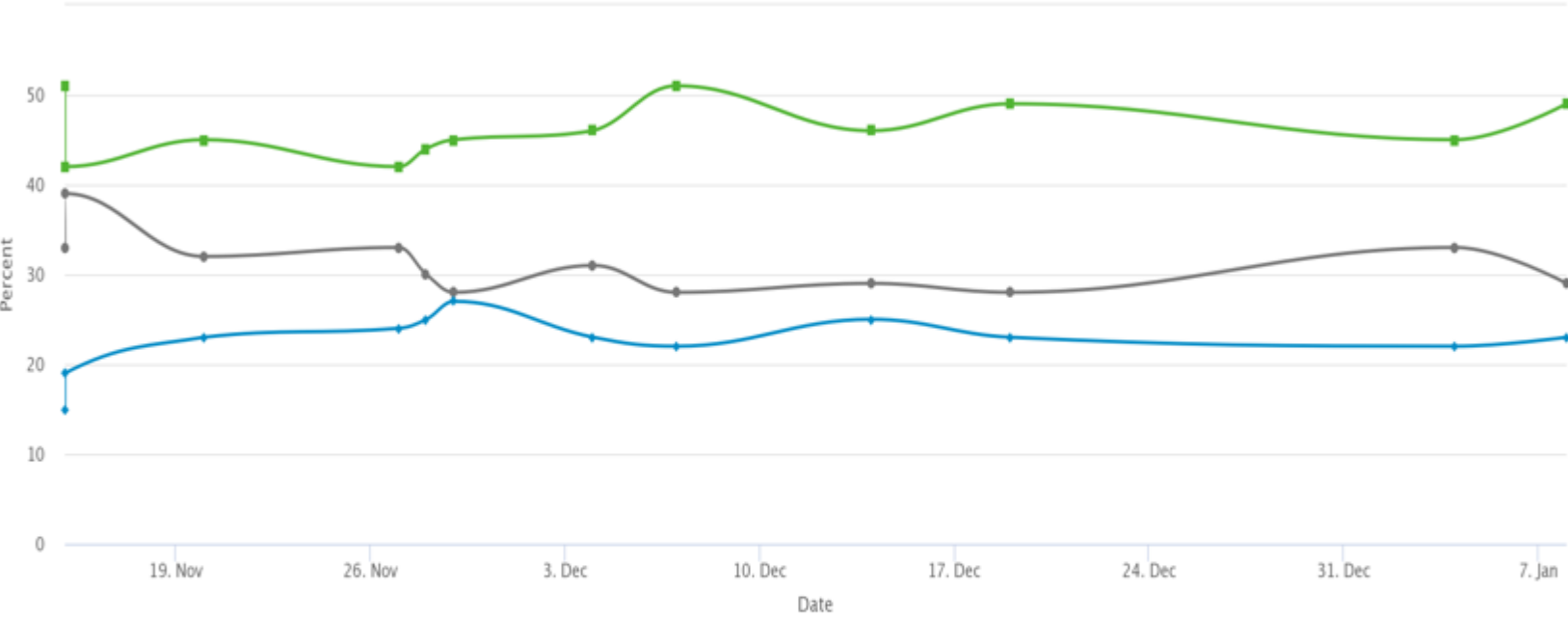
@whatukthinks whatukthinks.org/eu

Questions

- What do voters make of Mrs May's deal?
- What do they think about the alternatives?
- How about passing the decision back to voters?

Support or Oppose The Deal?

From what you have seen or heard about the deal so far, do you support or oppose the draft Brexit deal?

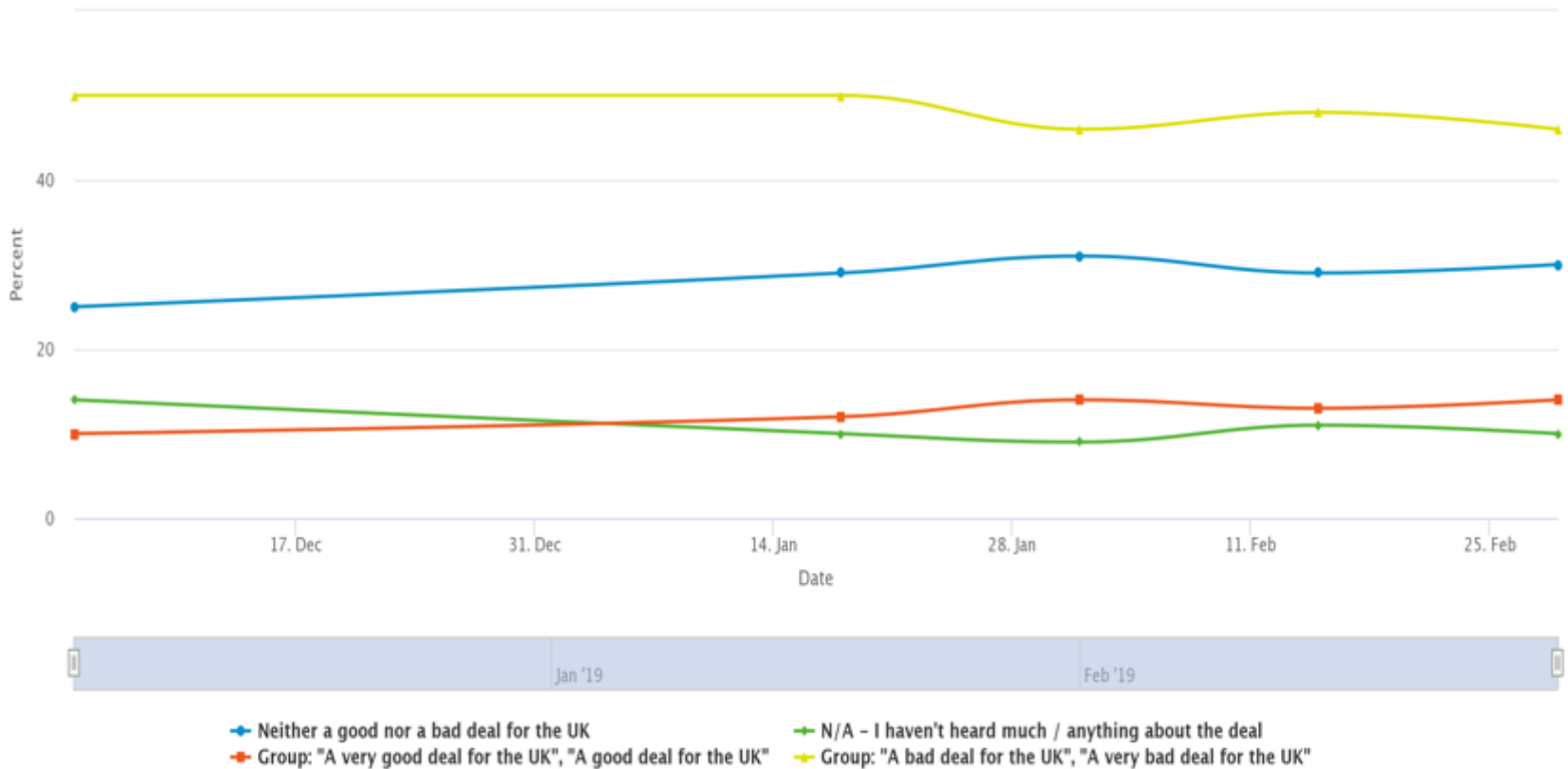


→ Don't Know → Group: "Strongly support", "Tend to support" → Group: "Tend to oppose", "Strongly oppose"

Source data at www.WhatUKThinks.org/EU run by NatCen Social Research

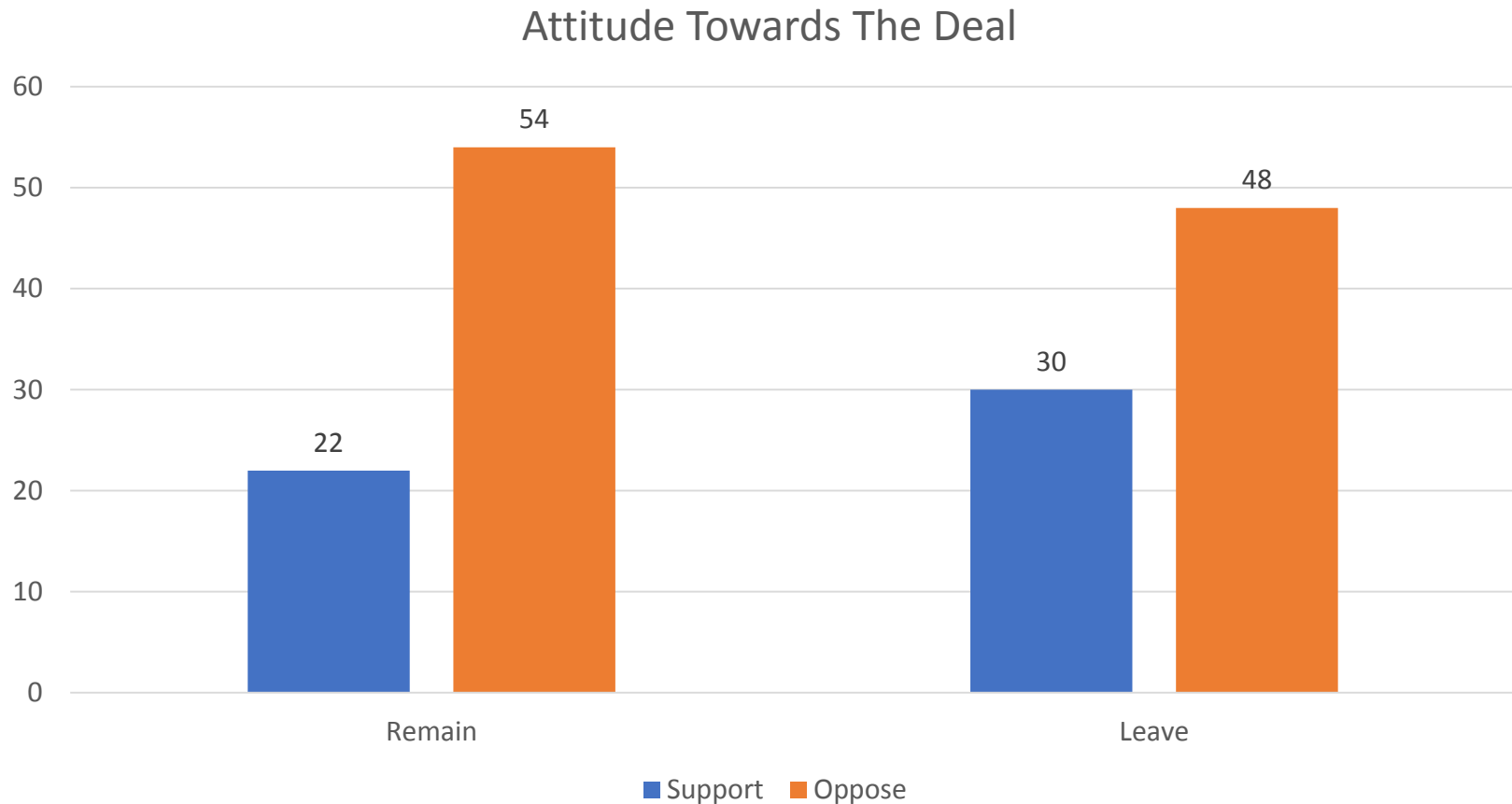
Deal Good or Bad for Britain?

From what you have heard, do you think the agreement reached by the Prime Minister with the EU is good or bad for Britain? (5-point scale)



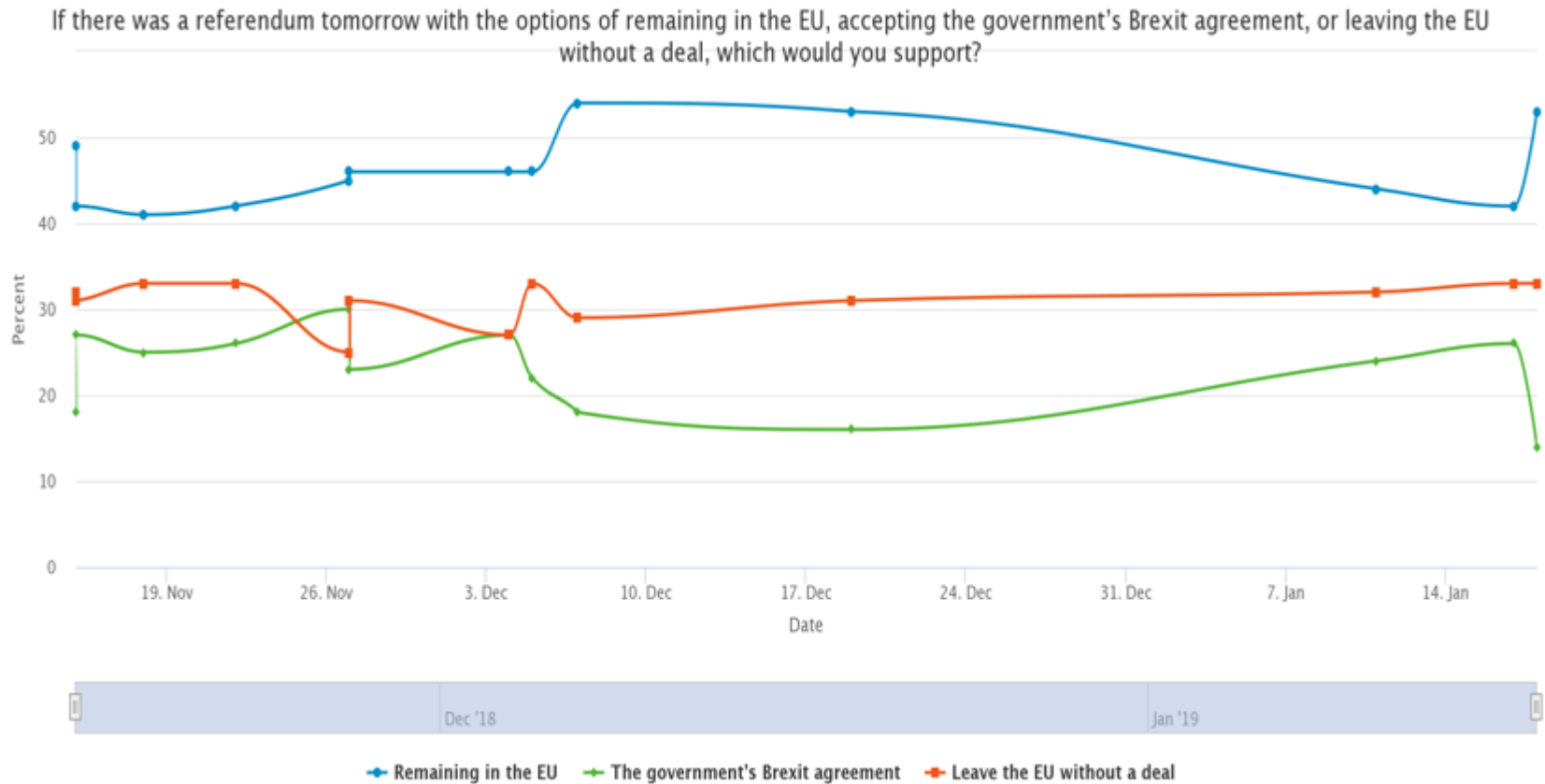
Source data at www.WhatUKthinks.org/EU run by NatCen Social Research

A Remarkable Outbreak of Unity!



Source: Average of 6 YouGov polls, 3.12.18-7.1.19

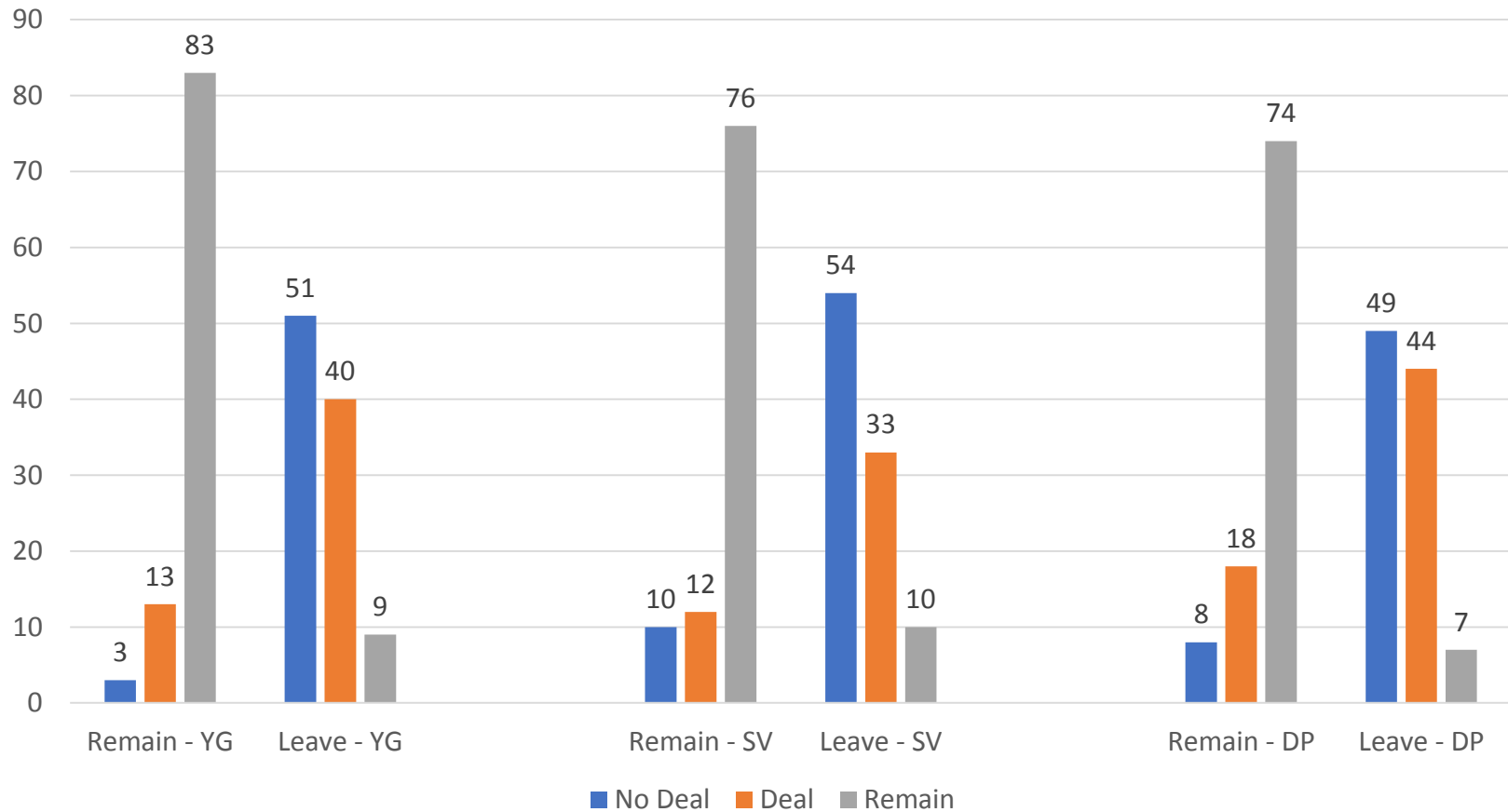
Relative Popularity



Source data at www.WhatUKThinks.org/EU run by NatCen Social Research

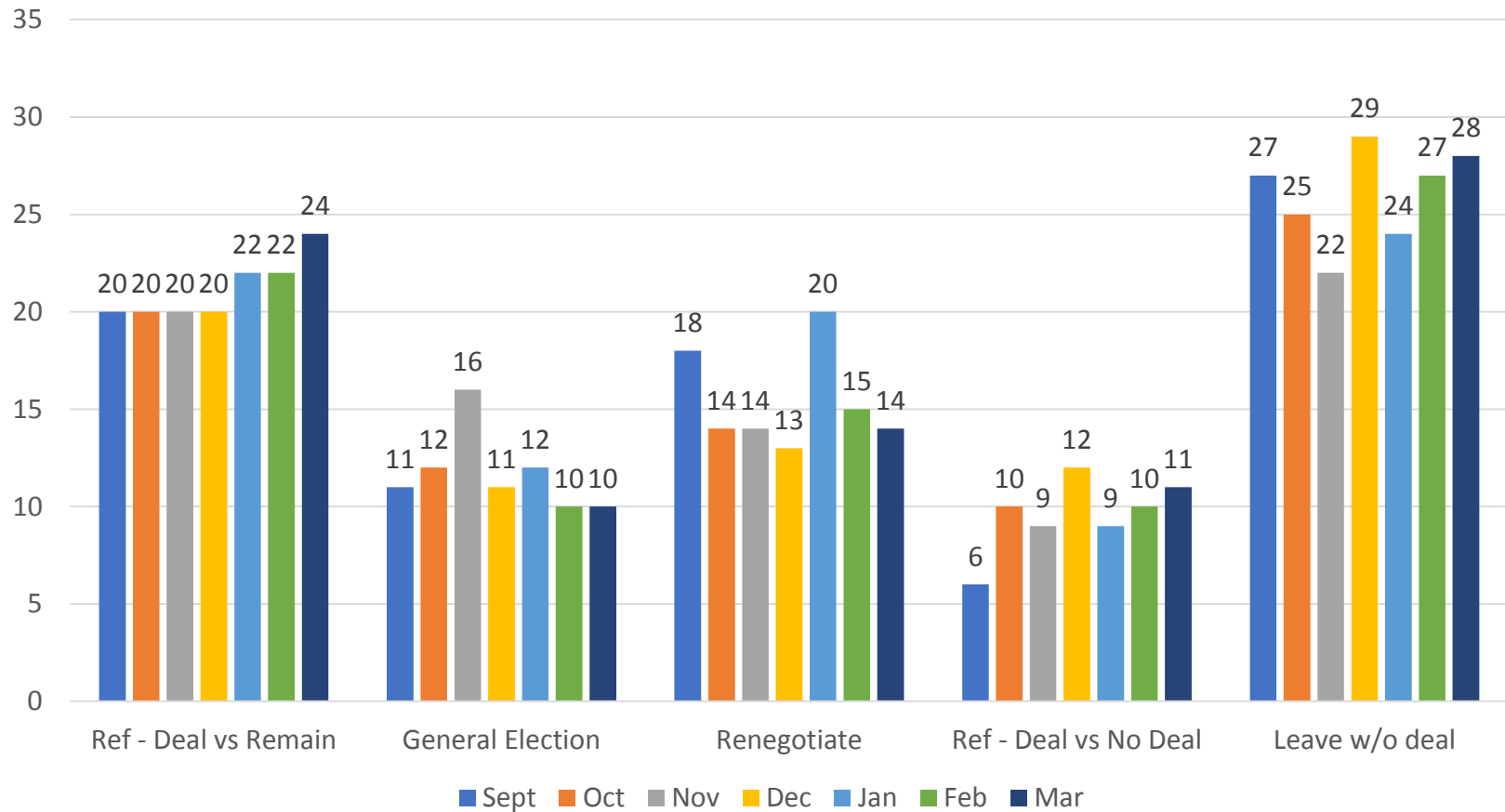
Source: Deltapoll, ICM, IQR, Number Cruncher Politics, Opinium, Survation, YouGov

Different Priorities



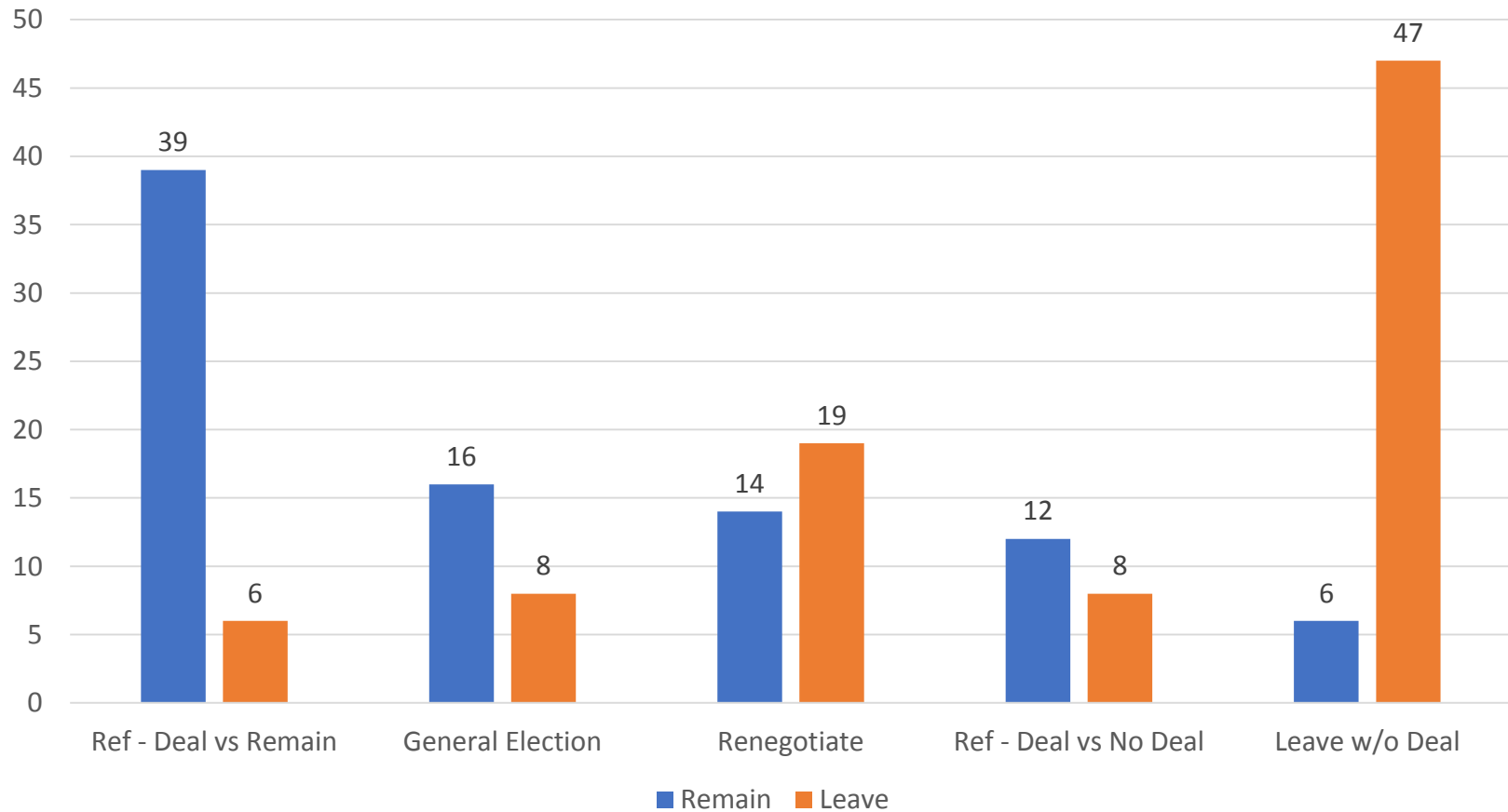
Sources: YouGov 27.11-4.12.18; Survation 10-11.1.19; Deltapoll 26-27.11.18

Procedural Pluralism



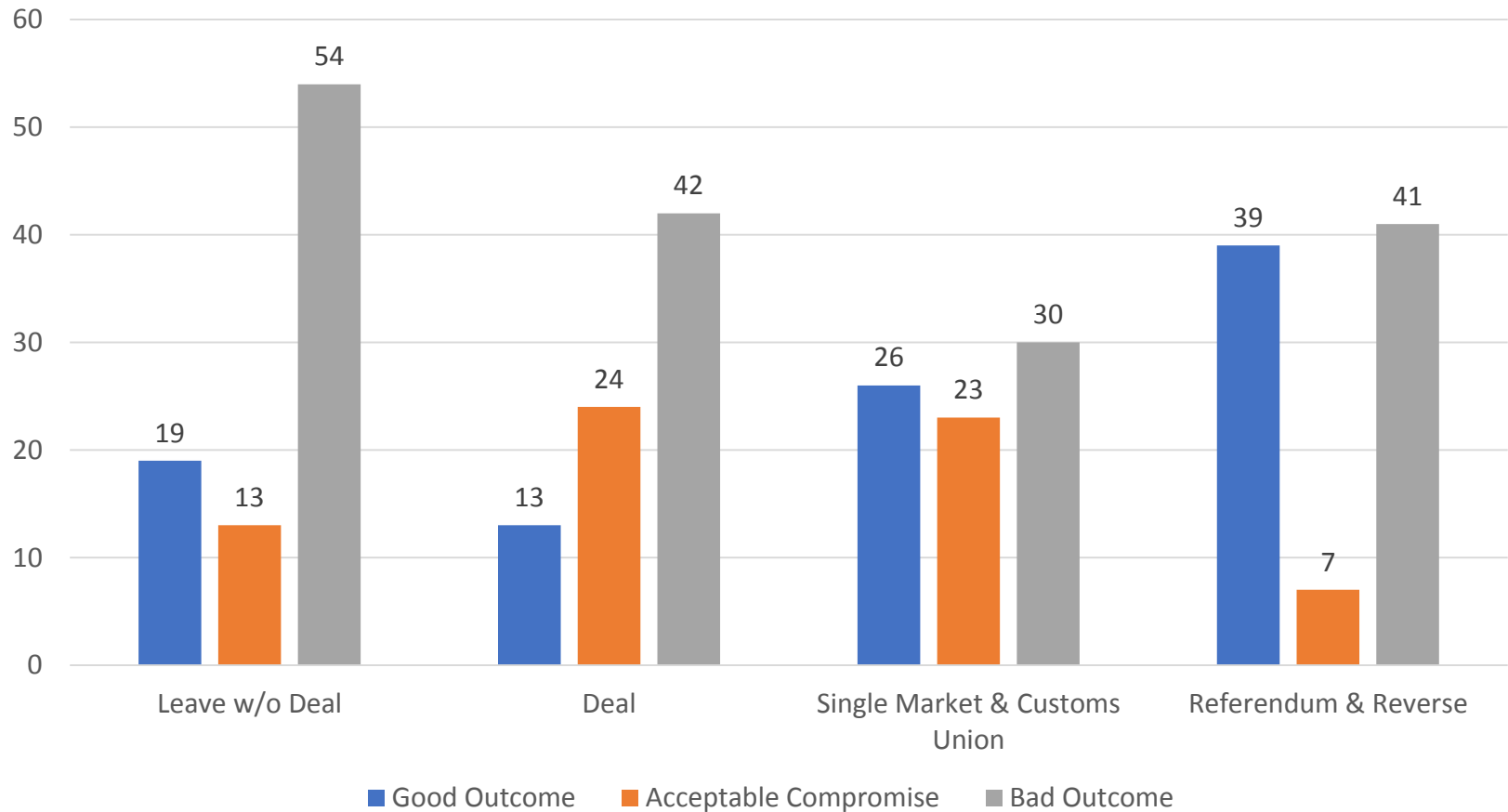
Source: Opinium

Hiding A Polarised Structure

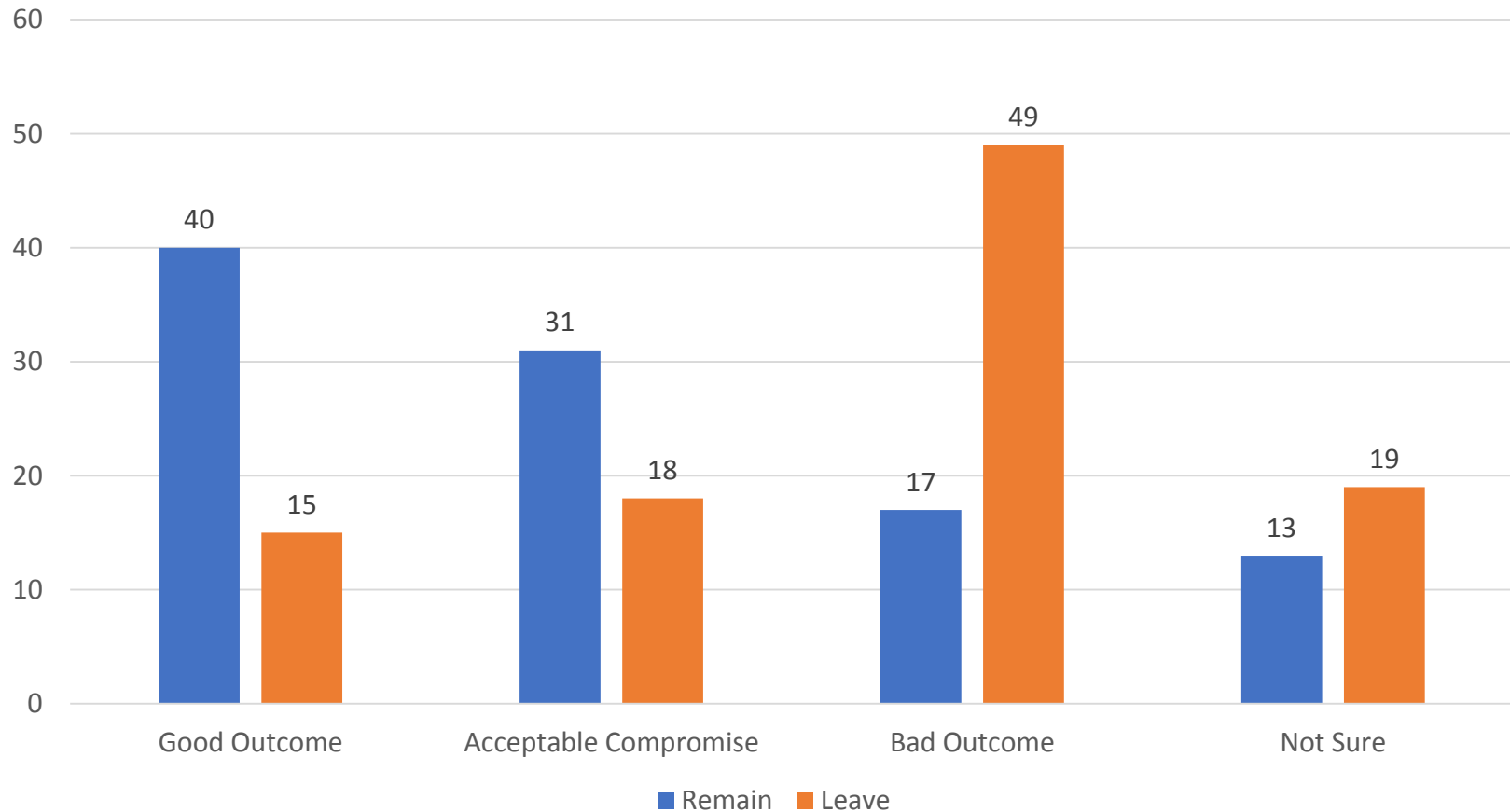


Source: Average of 9 polls by Opinium 26.9-1.3.19

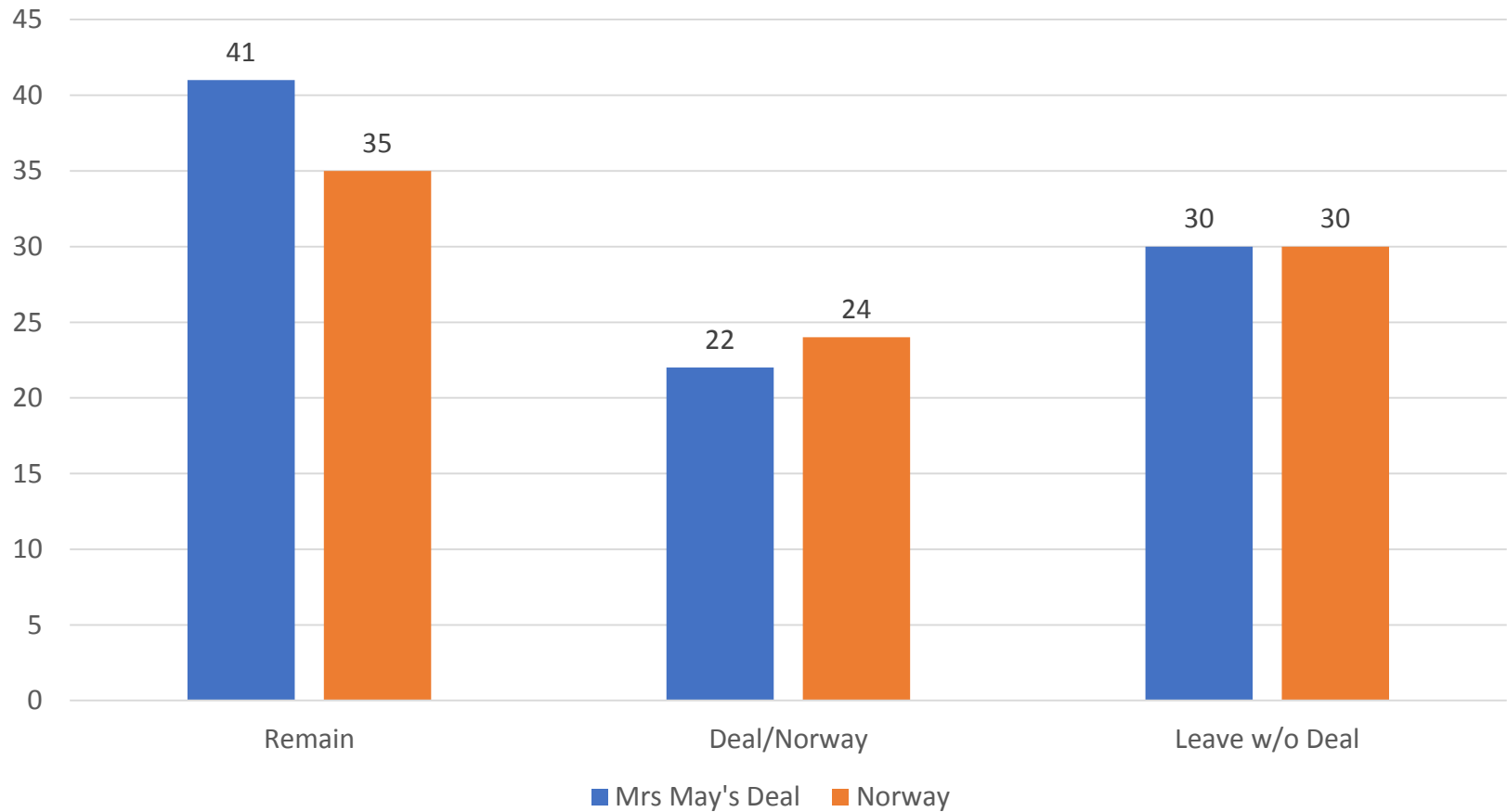
An Explicit Search for Compromise



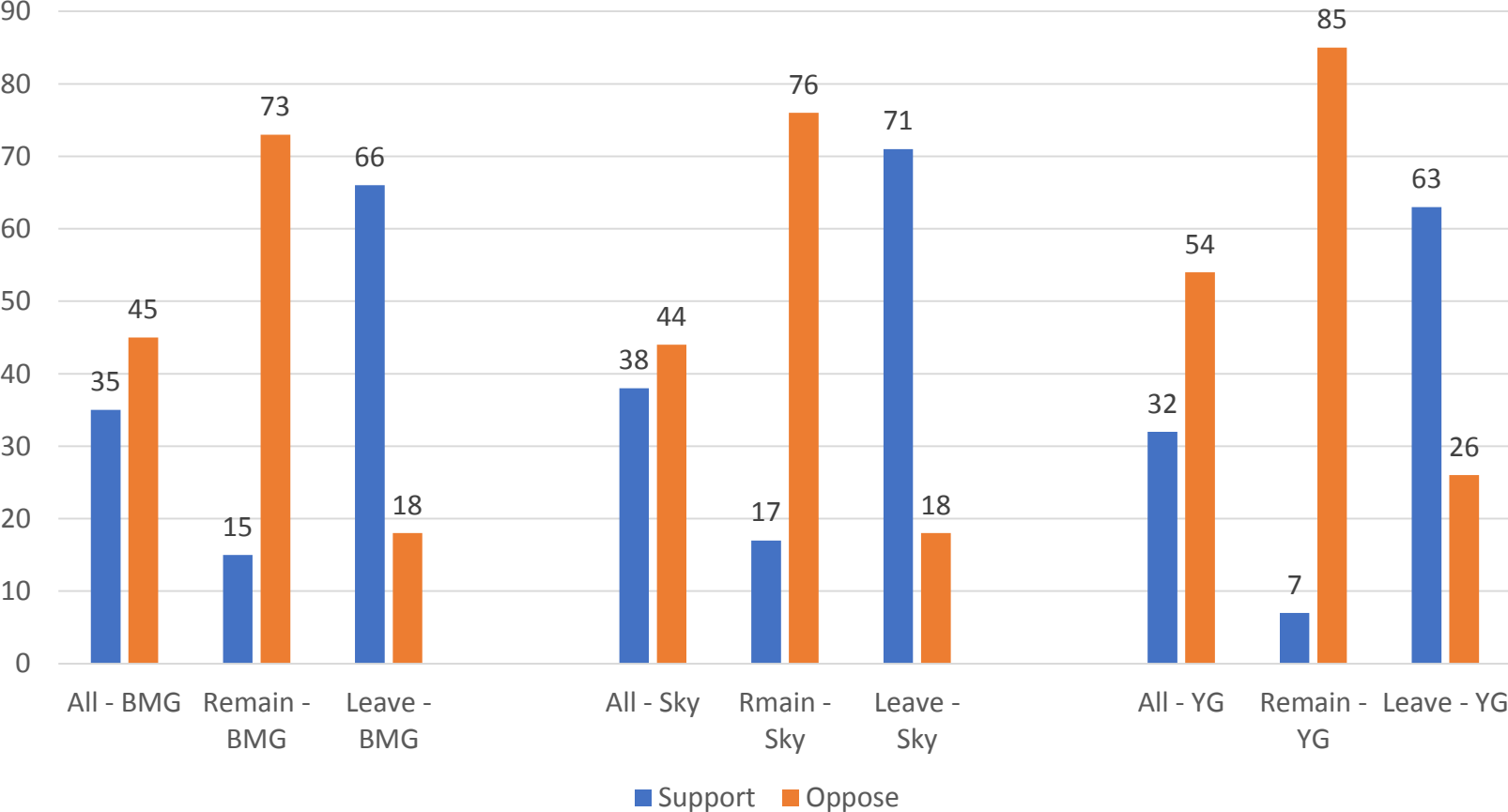
But A Soft Brexit Does Not Bridge The Divide



Another Third Choice?

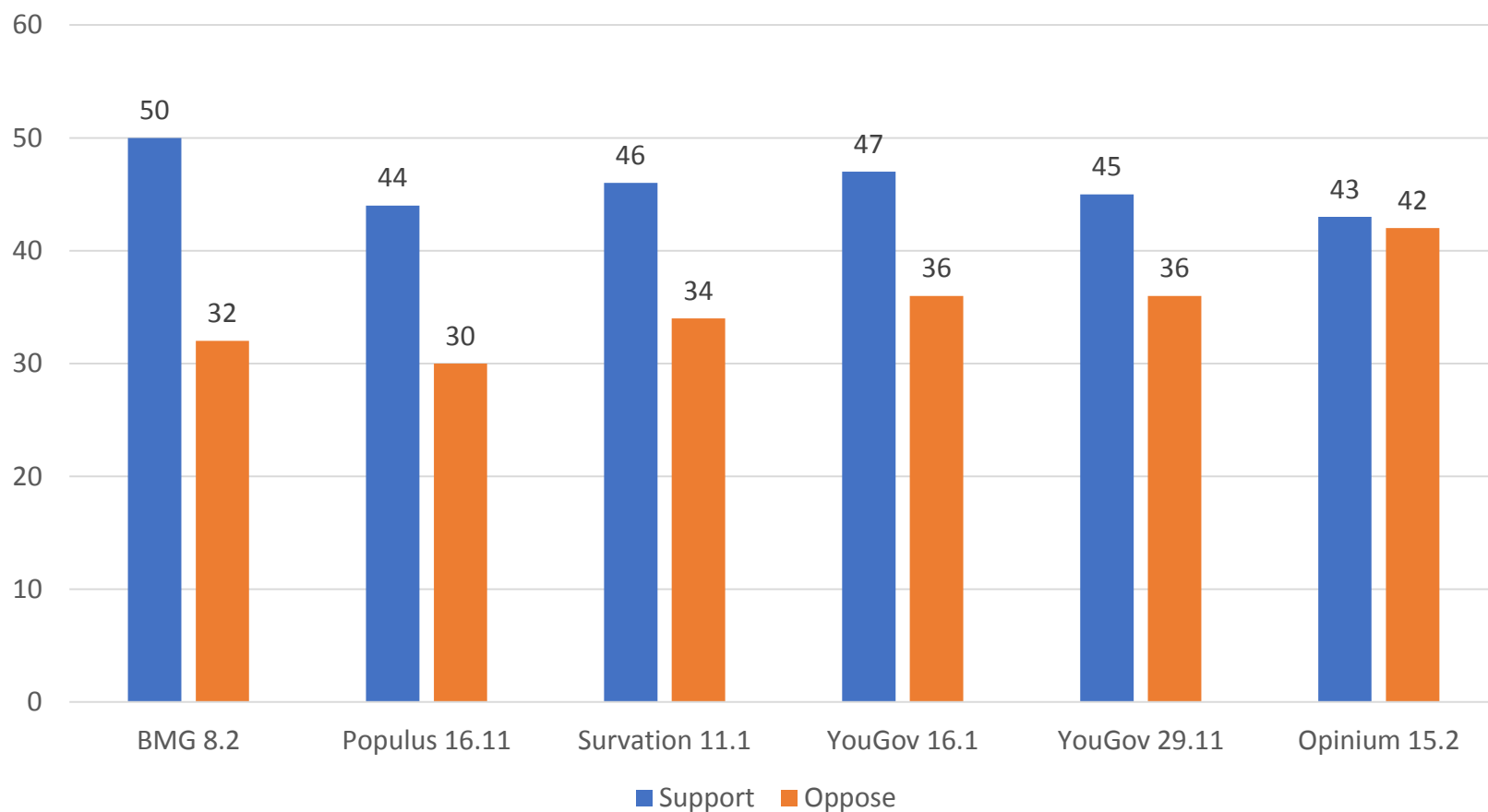


Support/Oppose No Deal

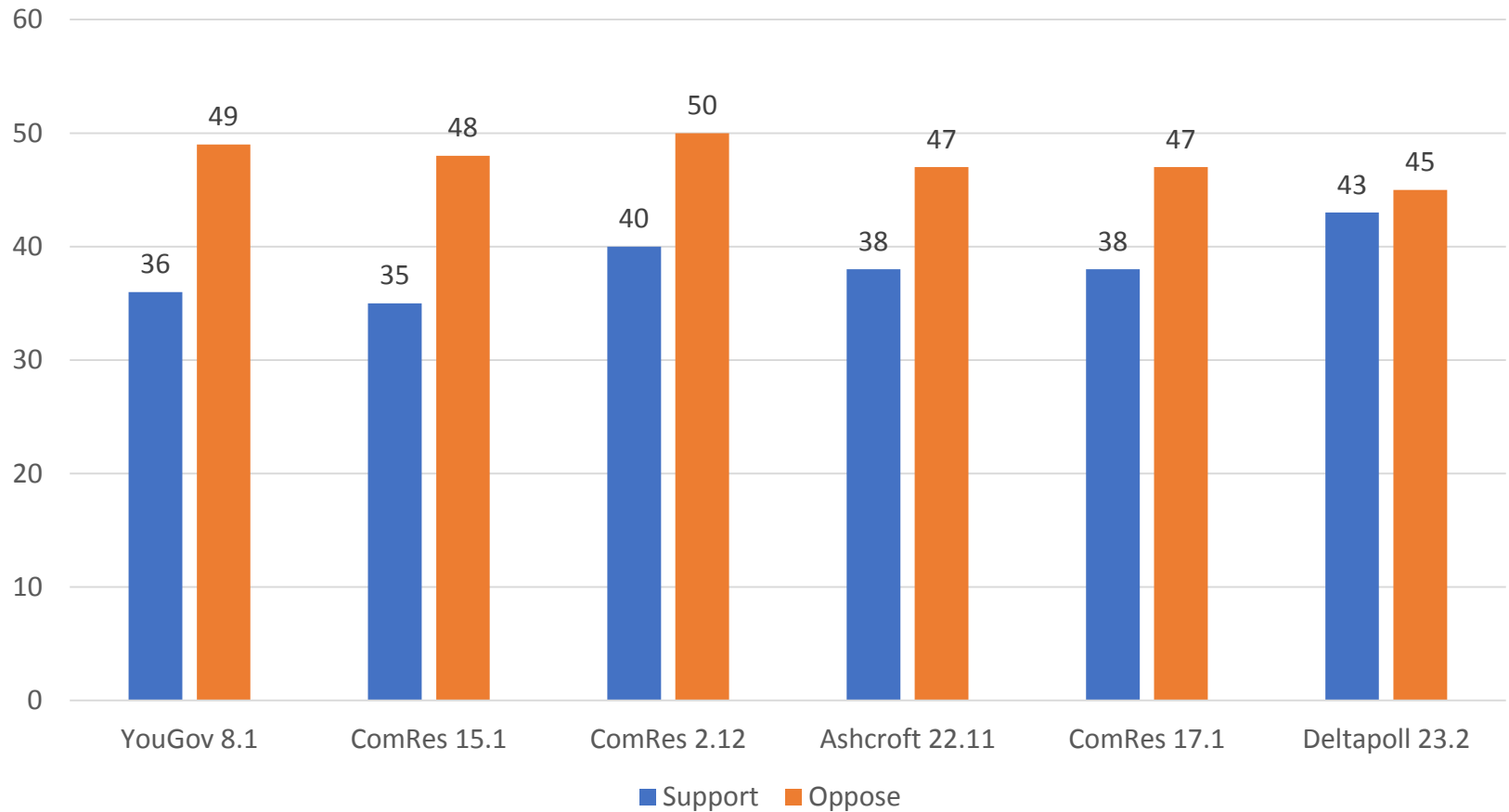


Source: BMG 8-11.1.19; Sky 18.1.19; YouGov 22-23.2.19 (For YG Support = Good Outcome or Acceptable Compromise)

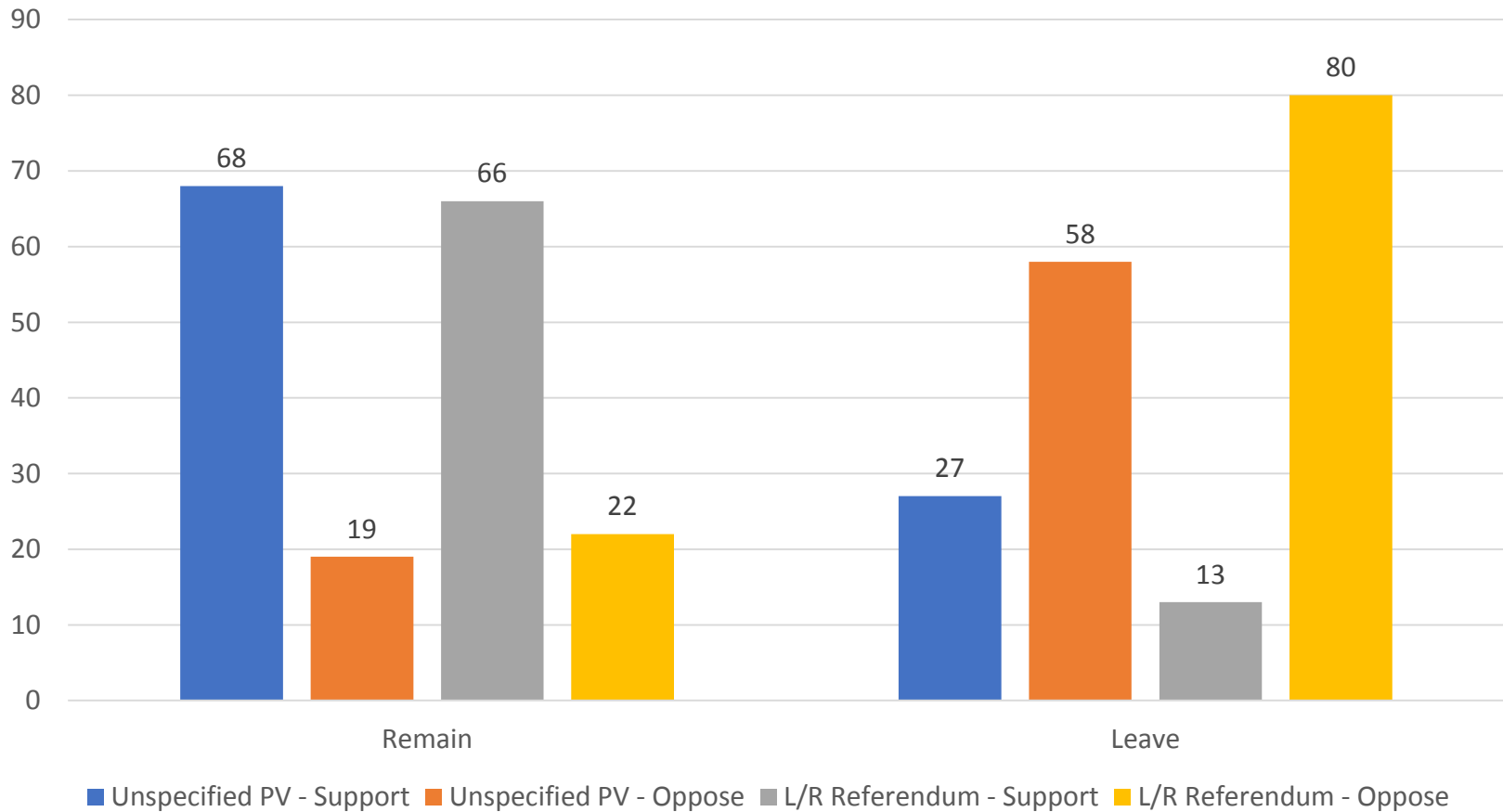
A People's/Public Vote on



Referendum on Remain vs Leave

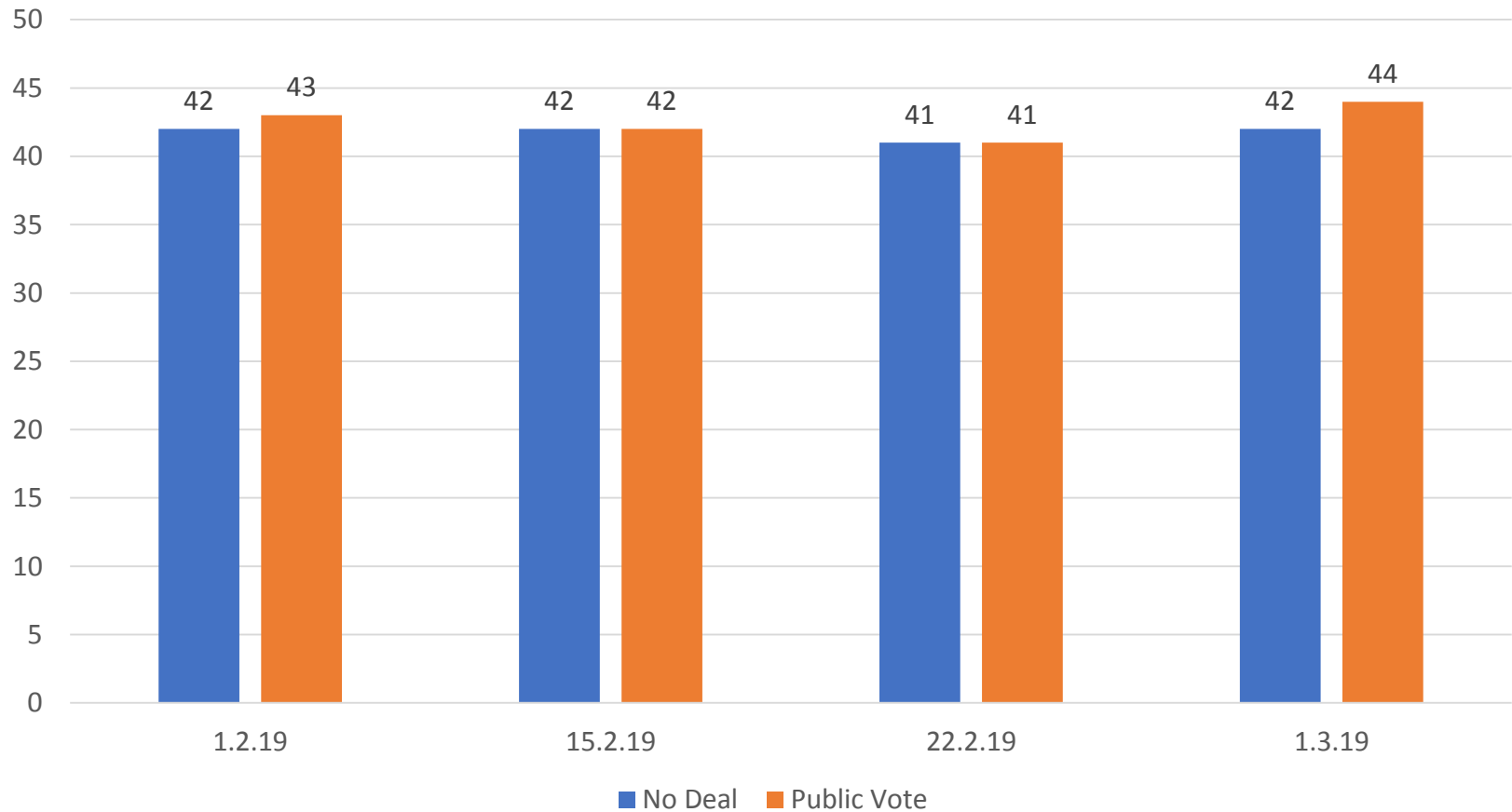


Wording Matters To Leave Voters – But Evidently A Remainer Project



Source: 12 polls conducted by Ashcroft, BMG, Deltapoll, Opinium Populus, Survation, YouGov: 15-11.18-15.2.19

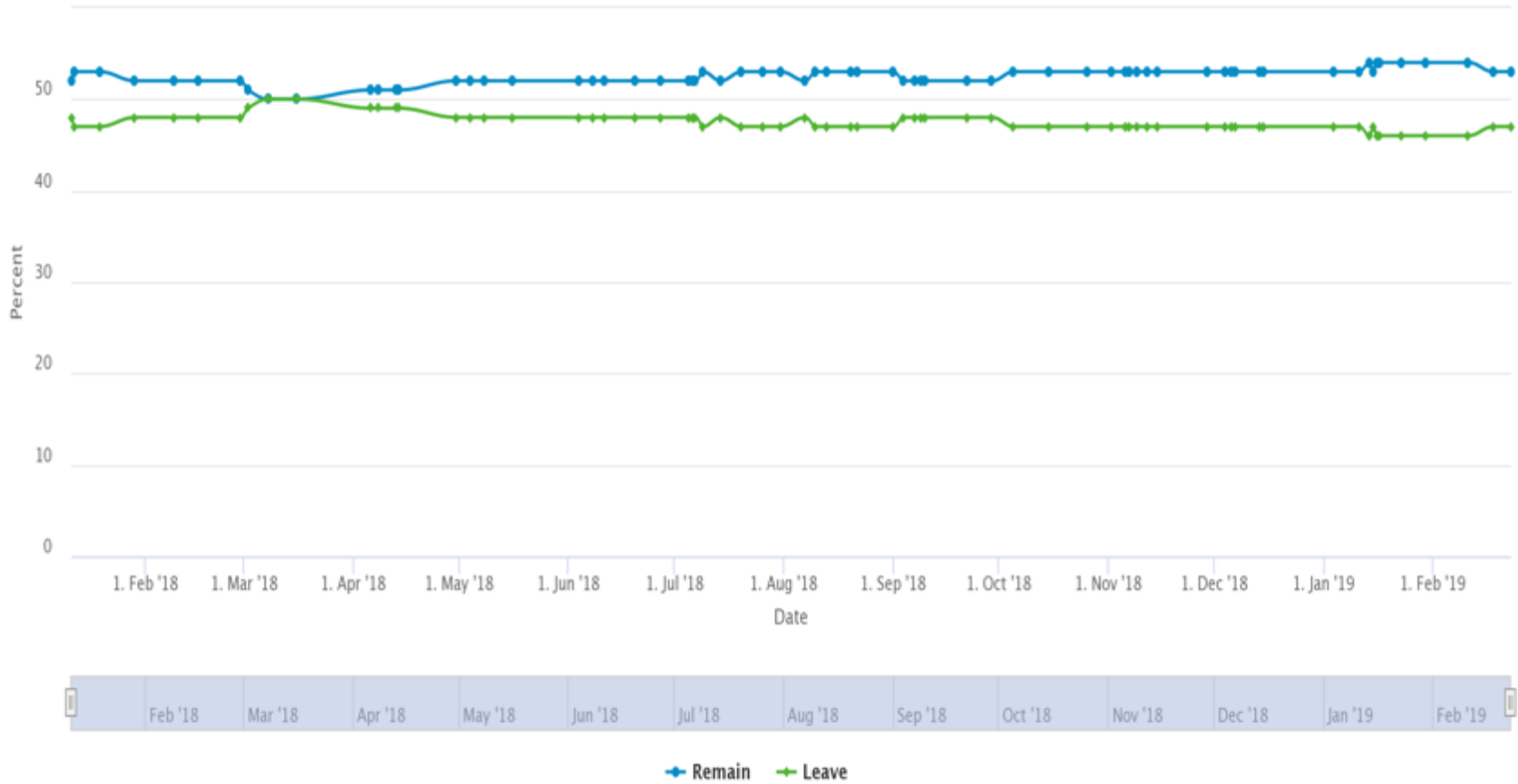
An Even Divide: No Deal vs Public Vote



Source: Opinium

EURef2 Poll of Polls

EURef2 Poll of Polls



Source data at www.WhatUKThinks.org/EU run by NatCen Social Research

The Turnover of 'Votes'

Vote Now/Vote 2016	Remain (%)	Leave (%)	Did Not Vote (%)
Remain	87	10	43
Leave	8	83	18
Undecided/Would Not Vote	5	7	39

Source: Average of 6 polls conducted by Deltapoll, Kantar, Survation and YouGov, 22.1-23.2.19

Conclusion

- Mrs May's deal has proven an unpopular compromise.
- But no other option appears to be both widely popular and capable of appealing to Remainers and Leavers.
- A 'soft Brexit' is a Remainer compromise that runs the risk of being little loved – much like Mrs May's deal.
- 'No Deal' is a Leaver's solution
- A second referendum is not as popular as sometimes claimed. It is also a Remainer solution (perhaps because Remainers think it'd produce a different result).